The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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RAILROADS ARE ENFORCING GIGANTIC LOCKOUT

The contracting of repair work by railroads is a gigantic lockout of their shop employes.

These workers are notified that all connection between them and the railroad is at an end, and if they desire to remain employed they must apply to the private company that has contracted to do the railroad's repair work.

Then the shop employes find the purpose of the lockout—they are offered lower wages, longer hours and harder working conditions.

The railroads defend this contracting by the claim that it is no different from other contracts they enter into.

This claim is most superficial. It will not stand analysis.

By locking out these employes the roads have broken contracts which call for specified notice before termination; they have violated seniority rights which workers secured after long service, and they have ended privileges that have always been associated with railroad work.

To say that the railroads discharged these workers is to play with words. The railroads do not want these workers to quit. If they did quit the railroads would turn on their tap of public virtue and hysteria that served them in their campaign for the Cummins-Esch bill and on every other occasion when their hand is open rather than fist shape.

The Cummins-Esch law provides that wages shall be "just and reasonable," and the railroad labor board is to decide. The scheme of private contracting takes wages of these employes outside the board's jurisdiction and nullifies the intent of congress.

The law also empowers the board to act in any dispute that "is likely to substantially interrupt commerce."

It must be borne in mind that the railroads demanded this law and their newspapers insisted on its passage. The latter called upon every citizen to join the chorus for justice to the public, the railroads and the employes.

This charming picture, however, has been disarranged since the financiers have squeezed the Cummins-Esch act for about the last penny and now consider it a liability, rather than an asset in their labor crushing policy.

Its labor provisions are flouted by the men who made the law possible and their newspapers are mute. The contracting with private companies has been most brazen. No one denies that these companies are dummies without capitalization or financial standing and use the shops of the railroads they have contracted with.

The board has recently ruled in the case of an obscure railroad, that its contracting is a violation of the Cummins-Esch law and that while the decision applies only to that road, the principle will be applied to all others when their cases are reviewed.

And the other roads quickly notify the board, through the public press, that the board's policy will be resisted.

The purpose of this lockout is clear. The railroads want cheaper production, regardless of justice, law, contracts, custom and understandings between men.

It now remains for some federal judge to exonerate the railroads and envelope with his clammy legalisms and cob-webby lore the attempt of the roads to violate law and degrade working conditions at the same time.

This lockout will be remembered by workers the next time they are assured that their dependence upon economic power would not be necessarry if they "trust a government board to ascertain the facts and then depend upon public opinion to enforce a just award."

This is the favorite sing song to labor of those editors who are now silent while the railroads wreck the law they jammed through congress with the aid of the most extensive lobby ever assembled.

ANTI-UNION LAW MAKERS OVERLOOK PET BUGABOO

Washington, June 3.—Congress has amended the federal reserve act by this change in reference to appointments on the federal reserve board:

"The president shall have due regard to a fair representation of the financial, agricultural, industrial and commercial interests."

Before this amendment, the law read:

"That he (the president) shall have due regard to the industrial and commercial interests."

While the amendment was before the house it was repeatedly stated that the change could have no effect on the president.

Congressman McFadden, chairman of the house banking and currency committee, stated that the amendment had no value, but its passage would do no harm, as he "understood" the president intended to appoint a farmer on the board.

Congressman Stevenson, another member of the banking committee, stated that the amendment "is not worth a cent," and that the president can appoint a farmer without the amendment.

The bill was approved, however, by men who crack their throats in protest against "unAmerican class legislation" when labor asks for remedial laws or representation on governmental boards. These lawmakers now not only ignore former claims but vote for an act that they acknowledge is of no value, and whose only purpose is vote hunting among farmers.

Congressman Meyer London taunted the lawmakers who profess fear of "class legislation," when labor is involved, and who, by their votes, officially recognize "financial, agricultural, industrial and commercial interests."

"Without it ever having been intended," said the New York congressman, "this bill will help to do away with the fiction that there are no group or class interests in society." He offered an amendment to include a representative of labor as a member of the federal reserve board, and stated that "I expect a unanimous vote in support of my amendment."

It was defeated by more than a two-to-one vote.

LABOR IS MILITANT; GAINS UNDER ATTACK

Washington, June 3.—"Opposition to organized labor has created a more militant spirit in the workers and has given them greater determination," said President Gompers in a public statement on the forthcoming convention of the A. F. of L.

"We have known from the outset that the anti-trade union movement could not succeed, because it is founded on principles that defy all sound laws of economics. And now, in view of the remarkable and noteworthy solidarity in the ranks of the workers, we are doubly sure that the country will not much longer be called upon to contend with that essentially selfish and short-sighted effort on the part of certain groups of employers.

"Labor looks with great hope to the coming primary elections and to general elections this fall. An unusually reactionary congress is now in session, but there are excellent indications that the people will, at the first opportunity, make changes which will interfere seriously with the program of those who most desire a reactionary legislative record in the national capitol.

"I am confident, from long experience and observation, that the coming convention will produce a record as thoroughly progressive as any yet written in American labor history.

"The needs of the hour call for progressive, constructive effort, and the unity, solidarity and harmony within our movement constitute a guarantee that the needs of the hour will be met."

Witnesses for State Paid by Coal Owners

Charles Town, W. Va., June 3.—Witnesses for the state in the alleged "treason" trial of miners have their witness vouchers, issued by the clerk of the court, cashed by coal owners.

The miners' attorneys forced this admission from Walter Thurmond, president of the Logan coal operators' association, after the coal owners' attorneys made a hard fight to have Judge Woods rule against admitting this evidence.

Thurmond acknowledged that his association has already spent $14,000 for witnesses and $1,000 for attorneys' fees. The reason for the latter low cost is that the attorneys have an annual retainer and are continually engaged in fighting organized labor.

Thurmond's testimony shows that the coal owners' attorneys are not only directing the court fight, but they are paying witnesses fees.

WAR ON CROSSING WRECKS.

Washington, June 3.—The railroads have started a four-months' campaign of education against the reckless crossing of railroad tracks at grade crossings. Because of the increasing use of automobiles these accidents are increasing at an alarming rate. Last year the interstate commerce commission reported 1,072 fatal accidents and 4,818 persons injured.

During the campaign efforts will be made to impress drivers of automobiles, especially, with the necessity for caution when going over railroad tracks. The slogan of the campaign is: "Cross crossings cautiously."

AIR BRAKES DEFECTIVE.

Cumberland, Md., June 3.—Defective air brakes on the strike-bound Western Maryland railroad caused a serious freight wreck seven miles from here. Forty box cars were demolished and automobiles, grain and perishables scattered along the track, while telegraph lines were demolished for nearly a mile.

The strike has been on for several weeks because the railroad contracted its repair work to a concern that immediately cut wages and reduced working conditions.

ERROR IN LABOR LAW.

Baltimore, June 3. — Bungling drafting of an amendment to the workmen's compensation act of Maryland during the last session of the legislature will bar employes making more than $2,000 a year from the act's provisions, according to Attorney General Armstrong.

BUTCHER WORKMEN TO MEET.

St. Paul, Minn., June 3.—The eleventh general convention of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen will convene in this city on Monday, July 24.

UPHOLSTERERS UNITE.

Buffalo, N. Y., June 3.—Upholsterers in this city have organized and they will attempt to establish a uniform wage rate and improve working conditions.

BLIZZARD ACQUITTED OF TREASON CHARGE

Charles Town, W. Va., June 3.—William Blizzard, official of the Mine Workers' union, who was charged with treason in connection with the march of miners through Logan county, last fall, was found not guilty by a jury.

The indictment was one of 16, including charges of murder, insurrection and conspiracy, and involve several hundred men, 120 of whom obtained a change of venue from Logan county to this (Jefferson) county.

The prosecution selected Blizzard to be tried first, and have been defeated in what they believed to be their strongest case.

The prosecuton was conducted entirely by coal owners' attorneys. Neither the attorney general of the state or the prosecuting attorney of this county had anything to do with the case. Coal owners' money paid attorneys' fees for the prosecution and also paid the fees of the state's witnesses.

New York, June 3.—"The state of West Virginia is itself responsible for the abuse of power in Logan county," says the New York World, in referring to the Blizzard acquittal in Charles Town.

"Because it has failed to interfere with the coal owners' government it is responsible for the disorders induced by that government. Whether or not William Blizzard was involved in the armed march, his action was assuredly not treason. It cannot be treason by any definition to rebel against a denial of constitutional guarantees."

Frank Discussion Aids Shop Harmony

Newark, N. J., June 3.—Frank discussion and the right of workers to select their own representatives was urged by Maj. Frank J. Miller, speaking to the industrial group of the New Jersey state chamber of commerce, at its meeting in this city.

Maj. Miller was formerly president of the American society of mechanical engineers. In his talk to New Jersey business men he said these principles were essential to successful industrial relations:

"Free discussion of terms, such as obtain between buyer and purchaser. Business men would not think of forbidding another business man to discuss terms with him, and there is no reason why the same should not obtain in his relation toward the workmen.

"The right of each side to select their own representative, just as is done in the business world. It would be absurd for one business man to say who should represent the other. Why, then, should it be otherwise between employers and workmen?"

TEXTILE MEN HAPPY.

Washington, June 3.—Happiness over the supreme court's child labor decision was privately expressed by members of the American cotton manufacturers' association, at their convention in this city.

James A. Emery, general counsel for the national association of manufacturers, joined in the celebration.

No manufacturer was quoted on the decision, but W. H. Adams, secretary-treasurer of the association, delivered himself of these ponderous sentiments:

"Textile manufacturers have for years past, in common with economists in other lines, viewed with much apprehension the increasing tendency towards governmental regulation of industry by the assumption of powers not directly vested in congress, and it is contended by many textile manufacturers that this decision will achieve much in the line of limiting such alleged unwarranted interference in business."

HUGE FIRE LOSSES IN 1921.

New York, June 3.—Economic depression during the past year has resulted in a large number of "business fires," according to officers of the national board of fire underwriters, at their annual meeting in this city. It was stated that incendiarism and arson are on the increase.

There was no single conflagration of any magnitude in 1921, but fire losses last year totaled $485,000,000, or $35,000,000 in excess of the previous year. Last year's fire losses amounted to $4.47 per capita, or $1,400,000 a day.

Fire underwriters declare that this waste is excessive in amount and disastrous in results.

JUICY RAIL PROFITS.

New York, June 3.—The New York Central railroad reports a net profit last year of $32,295,685, after allowing for all expenses and deductions. This is equivalent to $5.93 a share on the $249,000,000 capital stock. The previous year the company reported a profit of $5.50 a share on the same amount of stock.

The Northern Pacific reports clear profits of $22,065,299 for last year. This is an increase of $2,971,218 over 1920.

SHOWS EXPRESS PROFITS.

New York, June 3.—The American railway express reports a balance for last year of $770,320, as compared with a deficit of $39,535,387 for 1920.

SEAMEN REMIND PRESIDENT HOW THEY LOST 8-HOUR DAY

Washington, June 3.—President Harding is reminded by President Furuseth, of the International Seamen's union, that the United States shipping board smashed the seamen's eight-hour day, last year, and established the 12-hour day and 84-hour week.

In a letter to the chief executive, the trade union official says:

"Mr. President—The seamen have read with great joy that part of your address to the steel manufacturers in which you strongly urge the abolition of the 12-hour day.

"The seamen know what a seven-day week, a 12-hour day, an 84-hour week, and generally something added to that, means. They understand it all the better because for two years, up to May 1, 1921, the seamen had an eight-hour day at sea, and a nine-hour day in port, with extra pay for overtime, not with any desire, Mr. President, to work overtime, but for the purpose of so penalizing overtime that it would be abolished except in cases of necessity, when seamen work without extra pay until they drop.

"The American steamship owners' association and the shipping board took away from the seamen the eight-hour day at sea and the nine-hour day in harbor. In doing so they drove from the sea nearly all worth-while native Americans that had come to sea. The 84-hour week might be stopped by you, speaking in the same way to the shipping board and the American steamship owners' association that you spoke to the steel manufacturers.

"France has a 48-hour week by statute law; Italy by agreement; Australia and New Zealand by decisions of arbitration courts.

"Mr. President, the seamen have gathered new hope from your address to the steel manufacturers."

POSTAL EIGHT-HOUR LAW ENFORCED

Washington, June 3.—President Harding has sustained the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, an A. F. of L. affiliate, that flagrant violations of the letter and spirit of the postal eight-hour law should be stopped. Following the president's conference with steel manufacturers, when the advantages of the shorter work day were discussed, his attention was called to the conditions existing in the postal service under which thousands of clerks and other employes were working on a 10-hour daily schedule, although they were supposed to have the protection of the eight-hour law.

"If the government is to come to the rescue of the exploited steel workers," the president was told by the postal unionists, "it should first clean its own house by [illegible] the post office clerks the benefits of the eight-hour law."

In its defense of the practice of making clerks work 10-hour schedules daily the post office department tried to put the blame on congress. The president was told that congress had not provided the funds necessary to make the postal eight-hour effective by confining overtime to emergency cases. The president punctured this sophistry of bureaucrats by saying, "Failure of the congress to provide reasonable funds for the performance of this work scarcely creates an emergency."

In other words, postal officials can not ignore the eight-hour law and then blame congress for failing to provide the funds. The president ordered the postmaster general to put on additional clerks and thus eliminate overtime and he would aid in getting what money might be needed from congress.

Vocational Schools Defended By Workers

Milwaukee, Wis., June 3.—Officers of the Wisconsin state federation of labor warn trade unionists and other friends of vocational education that there is a movement in this state to discredit these schools in the eyes of the workers, for whose benefit the schools were established. The unionists say:

"While opposition to these schools is at present limited to a comparatively few greedy employers, a number of cheap politicians and certain school men who still think in terms of several centuries ago, it appears that it is designed to mobilize all possible antagonism and seek to repeal at least some part of the law, particularly the compulsory part-time attendance clause affecting minors between the ages of 16 and 18 years.

"Most members of organized labor are well aware that if they deprive their children of an education for whatever reasons, they will later be in the same economic predicament as were their parents before them. It is imperative that we impress not only our membership and the wives of our members with this importance, but also to put forth every effort to educate in this respect the families of non-members who are being made the tools of the enemies of vocational education."

BASE BALL NOT COMMERCE.

Washington, June 3.—In an interesting decision on what constitutes interstate commerce, the United States supreme court has ruled that base ball does not come under this head. The decision was made in the suit for damages against organized base ball by the Baltimore club of the defunct Federal, or "outlaw," league.

The court said that playing base ball is a state affair, and while clubs travel from state to state, the transport is an incident, and not the essential thing.

"That which in its consummation is not commerce does not become commerce among the states because the transportation we have mentioned takes place," said the court.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS LESS.

Milwaukee, Wis., June 3.—In a bulletin issued by the Wisconsin state federation of labor it is stated that for the first time in 18 months "we can report relief in the unemployment situation.

"While there is no boom in trade conditions, we are satisfied that a decided gradual improvement has set in. Now is the time to recount some of our past errors and profit thereby. The unions have retained their membership better during this panic than during any past depression. All that is necessary now is the right co-operative spirit with a little extra energy by the officers and members of every union."

CAN'T VIOLATE CONTRACT.

New York, June 3.—The supreme court has sustained an injunction against the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' association which was restrained from breaking a contract with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

Last fall the employers' association broke a contract with the union and attempted to enforce the long workday and piece work. The workers' solidarity resulted in a crushing defeat of the bosses, who are now holding conference with the union's representatives to renew the contract which has just expired.

While the lockout was on, the garment workers secured an injunction against the employers, who were restrained from conspiring to violate the contract. Final decision, in favor of the workers, has just been announced.

WANT LAW ENFORCED.

Richmond, Cal., June 3.—Organized painters in this city demand that the state law which provides for proper staging and scaffolding be enforced. These workers show that life and limb are endangered whenever this law is ignored.

Cheap Wage Advocates Ignore Railroad Act

New York, June 3.—In defending low-wage demands of railroad managers the New York Times joins with these managers in ignoring the Cummins-Esch act which authorizes the railroad labor board to establish "just and reasonable" wage rates. The Times' editor says:

> "The (Cummins-Esch) statute sets seven standards for the fixing of a fair wage. The first of them is: 'The scale of wages paid for similar kinds of work in other industries.' There is not a word in the statute about 'a living wage,' or a standard wage or union wages. The railway workers have set up these and other extra-legal demands on scale beyond the capacity of the industry to support."

The editor is incorrect when he says the Cummins-Esch act "sets seven standards for the fixing of a fair wage." Neither is mention made of 'a fair wage.' The act calls for wages and working conditions which "are just and reasonable." Neither does the law authorizes the board to consider as a standard "the scales of wages paid for similar kinds of work in other industries." This claim is identical with other low-wage advocates who would create the impression that the railroad labor board is commanded by law to base wages on other industries. Even certain members of the railroad labor board are aiding this propaganda.

The board has a free hand in wage adjustments. The law sets no standard, although seven suggestions are made to the board which shall be considered, "so far as applicable."

This leaves it entirely in the judgment of the board, as shown by the following clear declaration of the law (Sec. 307, paragraph D):

"All the decisions of the labor board in respect to wages or salaries and of the labor board or an adjustment board in respect to working conditions of employes or subordinate officials of carriers shall establish rates of wages and salaries and standards of working conditions WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE BOARD, ARE JUST AND REASONABLE.

"In determining the justness and reasonableness of such wages and salaries or working conditions the board shall, SO FAR AS APPLICABLE, take into consideration, among other relevant circumstances:

"(1) The scales of wages paid for similar kinds of work in other industries;

"(2) The relation between wages and the cost of living;

"(3) The hazards of the employment;

"(4) The training and skill required;

"(5) The degree of responsibility;

"(6) The character and regularity of the employment; and

"(7) Inequalities of increases in wages or of treatment, the result of previous wage orders or adjustments."

WAGES ARE LOWERED; ROADS ACCEPT "CUT"

Washington, June 3.—Almost simultaneously with a 10 per cent freight reduction by the interstate commerce commission comes a wage reduction as high as 17 per cent by the railroad labor board. This affects 400,000 workers and means an approximate saving to the railroads of $48,000,000 annually.

Under the circumstances the rail managers reveal grim humor when they solemnly announce to the public that they "will accept the freight reduction order of the interstate commerce commission." The railroads object, however, to the commission's award that 5 3-4 per cent shall be considered a fair return on railroad investments.

This shifting of freight reductions to underpaid track workers and other laborers has aroused a storm of protest. Common labor on railroads will now receive a minimum of 23 cents and a maximum of 35 cents. The board says that the minimum rates are not to be given uniform application throughout the country but only where local conditions "seem to warrant it."

Through bitter experience these railroad workers know what this declaration means, and they also know that the railroads will quickly find that they can apply the minimum rate of 23 cents an hour because "local conditions seem to warrant it."

In opposing this sweeping wage reduction, the three members of the railroad labor board, in a minority opinion, declared that the new rates of pay "are not based upon the human needs of the hundreds of thousands of families involved."

"The earnings of this large group of railroad employes," continues the minority decision, "will not provide the father of a family with as much food as is allowed convicts in the Cook county (Chicago), Ill., jail. The pre-war standard perpetuated by this decision was the product of inequitable wage bargains. It was considerably below the level recognized at that time as necessary for the maintenance of health and energy."

Minimum Wage Laws Fail to Function

Harrisburg, Pa., June 3.—Minimum wage legislation in this country has failed to adjust rates to the changing cost of living, Rev. Dr. Ryan of Catholic university, Washington, told the convention of labor commissioners of the United States and Canada.

"During the war," he said, "most of the wage rates became too low long before they were raised by the commission."

Miss Mary Anderson, director of the women's bureau, United States department of labor, told the convention that investigations in five states have disclosed a large portion of women employes are paid less than the minimum standards set by wage commissions in these states.

UPHOLD COMPENSATION ACT.

Columbus, Ohio, June 3.—In upholding the Ohio compensation act, the state supreme court stated that it is aware of the purposes of compensation law foes. The court said:

"Notwithstanding the legislative check of assault upon the workmen's compensation law, a smoke screen is being laid behind which another assault is now made, which is more insidious than the former and more calculated to break down the entire workmen's compensation law. Counsel who made the attack practically conceded this in their briefs."

RAT-KILLING "MILK" OUTLAWED BY HOUSE

Washington, June 3.—By a vote of 250 to 40 the house declared in favor of debarring "filled milk" from interstate and foreign commerce. It was shown that this milk is evaporated, has had the cream removed, and with 6 to 8 per cent or cocoanut or other vegetable oil substituted.

Prof. McCollum, of Johns Hopkins university, Baltimore, told the house committee on agriculture that a rat fed on this milk for 60 days would die.

"I guarantee," he said, "that any infant that is fed for a few weeks on one of these milk substitutes will develop rickets as severe as you see it here." (Exhibiting photograph).

The milk is advertised as "fresh, pure, cow's milk with butter fats extracted and refined cocoanut fats added." It has a rich, creamy appearance, and tastes as good as the finest milk, but has not the slightest nutritive value and has no life substance whatever.

Congressmen declared that this "filled" milk business is one of the greatest frauds now being perpetrated upon the public in the matter of food products. As all the cream is extracted there is nothing left but the poorest skim milk that it is possible to produce.

This product is sold for several cents cheaper than the usual condensed milk and finds a ready market among the poorer classes who are led to believe that "it is just as good" as the genuine article.

Farmers and dairy interests have joined in the fight against the deception.

RAIL MERGER ILLEGAL.

Washington, June 3.—The United States supreme court has ordered the Southern Pacific railroad to separate itself from ownership and control of the Central Pacific railway. In urging this dissolution the government's attorney, Solicitor General Beck, declared that the transaction by which the late C. P. Huntington and three associates leased the Central Pacific to the Southern Pacific "constituted one of the darkest pages in American railroad history."

It was shown that these men built the Central Pacific with government aid and without any financial outlay on their part. After the road was built they declared liberal dividends and unloaded a large part of the stock to foreign investors. Then they leased the Central Pacific to the Southern Pacific, which they controlled.

After they disposed of their Central Pacific holdings and tied that road up to the Southern Pacific, they proceeded to wreck the Central Pacific by diverting its traffic to the other road.

The government's attorneys said these transactions were a blot upon the history of trans-continental railroad construction and development.

SELL CONVICT-MADE BROOMS.

Chicago, June 3.—The Broom Maker, official journal of the Broom and Whisk Makers' International union, prints this advertisement for exploiters of prison labor that will hardly be appreciated by them:

"Bardall broom manufacturing company, Moundsville, W. Va.—Pay 70 cents per day for each convict employed. Secure free rent, heat, light and power.

"Frankfort broom company, Frankfort, Ky.—Same conditions as Bardall company.

Louisville broom manufacturing company, Louisville, Ky.—Employ convicts at Eddyville, Ky., prison. Pay $1 per day for each convict employed. Secure rent, heat, light and power free.

"The Central broom company, Jefferson City, Mo."

UPHOLDS ALIEN LAND LAW.

San Francisco, June 3.—The federal district court of appeals has ruled that California's alien land law violates no provision of the federal constitution, nor does it conflict with the treaty between this country and Japan.

The law prohibits aliens ineligible for citizenship from holding land. In reply to the claim that this law violates the treaty with Japan, Judge Morrow said: "Our attention has not been called to any provision in treaty between this country and Japan providing that such an alien may possess land.

LOCKOUT IS SMASHED.

Yonkers, N. Y., June 3.—Ladies' Garment Workers' union No. 112 defeated a two-months' lockout to reduce wages. The bosses broke an agreement and the union resorted to court procedure to secure observance of the contract. The workers' solidarity, however, proved more effective than the courts, to secure justice.

"RAIL WAGE CUT IS UNJUST"—Gompers

Washington, June 3.—"A most unjust and inequitable proceeding," declared President Gompers, in a caustic comment on wage reductions announced by the railroad labor board.

"The minority decision which says that the new wage will not allow the father of a family to purchase as much food as is allowed an inmate of the Cook county (Chicago) jail leaves little to be said in characterization of the action of the majority," said Mr. Gompers.

"The railroad workers waited until July 20, 1920, for an increase in wages. During the four years preceding the cost of living had been rising steadily. The railroad workers had been compelled to bear this increased cost without any compensating wage increase. It is proposed now to put wages back where they were before the increase of 1920.

"No one will contend that it costs less to live now than in 1920. The fact is there has been almost no appreciable change in the cost of living, so far as the average family is concerned. Prices of day-to-day requirements are about as high as ever. Some prices are higher than ever. Rent, the largest single item for every family, remains as high as ever and in most cases is higher.

"It is announced that the reduction just ordered amounts to 13.2 per cent. My calculation shows that the wage of the lowest paid, those getting 28 cents an hour, are to be reduced 17.8 per cent, down to 23 cents an hour. Those least able to stand the loss are hit hardest.

"The decision penalizes the workers and helps the railroads. It is another illustration of the unfitness of the railroad labor board.

"Railroads are not noted for easy acceptance of reductions in their income. When the interstate commerce commission last week ordered the reduction of freight rates the railroads were almost cheerful about the matter.

"Last Thursday they called at the white house and remarked upon leaving they had had a pleasant time. Now comes the wage reduction, with the indication of more wage reductions to follow."

MINERS' LINES SOLID CHURCH SURVEY SHOWS

New York, June 3.—Striking coal miners are maintaining a solid line, and there is no sign to indicate a "break," according to a survey by the federal council of the churches of Christ in America. It is stated that 514,500 miners have quit work, including 117,000 non-unionists.

The report disapproves West Virginia conditions, but the church men indicate that this state is not the only portion of the country where guards assault strikers and usurp government functions. "Beatings up," in time of industrial disturbances is not a sectional phenomenon, says the report.

While labor is admitted the largest single item of cost in the production of coal, it should be borne in mind, say the church men, that "from the consumer's point of view, not labor, but transportation and middlemen's profits are the major items."

Solution of the coal problem, it is pointed out, is blocked by ignorance of facts, as the national coal association, through an injunction, has frustrated the attempts of the federal trade commission to make extensive studies of the cost of coal production.

The report declares that the anti-union shop fight "probably has nowhere reached so bitter a stage as in West Virginia.

"Any one who tries to encourage union organization is considered an 'agitator,'" continues the report. "The coal owners consider that they have every right to keep organizers out of the communities which they themselves own."

SALES TAX DEFINED.

Chicago, June 3.—Editor Perkins of the Cigar Makers' Official Journal, gives this definition of the sales tax:

"The rich will be taxed only on what they spend and nothing on what they save. The poor will be taxed on what they spend, which means they will be taxed on all, for they must spend all to exist.

"Millions of dollars are spent by proponents of the sales tax scheme, millions that can well be afforded by the rich as a matter of business, for if the sales tax is substituted for the excess profits tax or any increase in the income tax it will mean more to them than any legislation so far passed by a congress that is seemingly very partial to the desires of the so-called 'business interests.'"

COURT PROTECTS RATES.

New York, June 3.—The federal district court has enjoined the public service commission from reducing rates of the New York telephone company. The court said the proposed cut would "have a most unfair return even on costs."

The court declared that "we do not undertake to make a rate, but we are of the opinion that such a rate as indicated cannot possibly be a fair return for any business like the telephone business in or near New York city or state at present."

FIGHT REACTIONARY JUDGES

Seattle, June 3.—The Washington state federation of labor is preparing to fight four reactionary members of the state supreme court, who are candidates for re-election.

MEXICAN UPRISING TO BE AGAIN STAGED?

Washington, June 3. — "Trade unionists should 'read between the lines' when they read newspaper dispatches from San Antonio, Tex., that Mexico is again on the verge of a revolution," said Canuto Vargas, Spanish secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, of which Samuel Gompers is president.

"The latest comic opera revolution that is to be staged," said Vargas, "is to be headed by General Felix Diaz, whose only claim for recognition as a leader in Mexico is that he bears the name of the late dictator of Mexico, Porfirio Diaz.

"It is highly significant that a few days before the publication of these dispatches, a Washington newspaper, generally considered a spokesman for the Harding administration, carried a vitriolic editorial against the Obregon government and stated that another revolution in Mexico was more than probable.

"A writer in another Washington newspaper, from whose remarks it can be easily concluded that he has been in very close touch with the state department, says American officials are surprised at the attitude of the Mexican government because it refuses to accede to the demands of the American government in exchange for recognition.

"These incidents, coming so close together and beginning with the vitriolic editorial of scarcely a week ago in the Washington Post, have the earmarks of another drive by the administration to bring Mexico to the point of accepting in toto the American conditions for recognition or to stir up discontent in Mexico and discredit the Obregon government before the American people.

"At the present time Adolfo de la Huerta, secretary of the treasury of the Mexican government, is in New York city conferring with international bankers on Mexico's foreign debt. It might be asked if it is the purpose of these attacks from Washington and stories of the so-called revolution, to handicap Huerta in his negotiations with the bankers and possibly coerce him into conditions that would not be possible if the government of Mexico was recognized by the United States government."

WON'T MEET STRIKERS.

New York, June 3.—Philip T. Dodge, president of the International paper company, has refused to join a conference with striking employes that these workers called in the hope that differences might be adjusted.

From his lofty and kingly pedestal the paper trust official announces that "the company does not intend to engage further in useless discussion of its labor policies with persons not in its employ."

The strike started last spring and was caused by the company's attempt to cut wages.

SOFT COAL PRICES GO UP.

Washington, June 3.—All bituminous coal prices at mines throughout the country have jumped since the national mine strike began on April 1, despite warnings of Secretary of Commerce Hoover that there is no justification for increases. These increases are frankly admitted in Coal Review, the coal owners' spokesman.